

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Toru KAWAGUCHI et al.

Appln. No. : 10/576,952

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

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Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No. Not Yet Assigned

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

Prior to an examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the claims as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 10 of this paper.